Iris versicolor

IRIS VERSICOLOR.

Blue Flag, or Flower de luce.

PLATE XVI.

In the Hortus Elthamensis, published by John J. Dillenius in 1732, there are figures of two plants under the name of "Iris Americana versicolor," the one with an entire, the other with a crenate style. To one of these, the plant represented in our plate apparently belongs. This plant however is so subject to variation in the colour of its flowers, the crenatures and direction of its stigmas, &c. that it has received from different botanists dissimilar names. The Linnean characters of Iris versicolor and Virginica are hardly sufficient to distinguish them from each other. Our plant is the Iris versicolor of Muhlenbergh's catalogue, by his own declaration. In the character of its stem however, it agrees equally well with Iris virginica of Linnæus and Michaux. It may be doubted whether the plant figured in